



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
**Department of Health Services**



**ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER**  
Governor

DATE: June 14, 2006

MMCD All Plan Letter 06004

TO: ALL MEDI-CAL MANAGED CARE HEALTH PLANS

SUBJECT: NATIONAL PROVIDER IDENTIFIER (NPI)

Under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) was required to adopt a standard unique identifier for health care providers. The CMS has adopted the National Provider Identifier (NPI) as this standard. The main tenets of the NPI regulations are as follows:

- The NPI is a new 10-digit numeric identifier that contains no embedded intelligence about the health care provider that it identifies.
- The National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES) has been built and is accepting NPI applications from providers through the web and via paper.
- All HIPAA covered healthcare providers, whether individuals or organizations, must obtain an NPI for use in HIPAA standard transactions.
- All HIPAA covered entities, i.e., healthcare providers, healthcare clearinghouses and health plans, must use only the NPI to identify providers on HIPAA standard transactions.
- The compliance date for the California Department of Health Services (CDHS) contracted health plans is May 23, 2007.

For additional information regarding the NPI and how to apply, please visit:

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand/>

The CHDS is in the process of assessing the impact of the NPI across all of Medi-Cal. Contracted health plans play an important part in Medi-Cal and are affected by the NPI.

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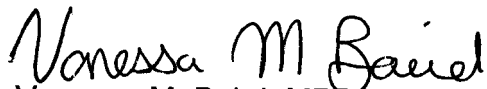
As we determine the impacts and plan our NPI compliance activities, we will provide additional information to our stakeholders. Future All Plan Letters will provide information on health plan reporting and discussion of potential network and access issues.

To further facilitate communication regarding the NPI, please identify a single point of contact for your health plan on the NPI. Please forward the contact information either electronically to Carrie Allison at [CALLISON@dhs.ca.gov](mailto:CALLISON@dhs.ca.gov), or by mail to:

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If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Mr. Russ Hart, Chief of the Policy and Financial Management Branch, at (916) 449-5000.

Sincerely,

  
Vanessa M. Baird, MPPA, Chief  
Medi-Cal Managed Care Division